



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



September 20, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT SECURITY
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

In July 2009, the Los Angeles County Superior Court (Court) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the provision of Trial Court Security. We extended the MOU one year, but during the past 12 months have been unable to reach a new agreement. During the term of the agreement, the Legislature modified court security funding practices. The cost of court security was part of the local court's budget and the Department billed the Court for services provided under the agreement. Under the Superior Court Security Act of 2012, the State now funnels the money directly to Los Angeles County (County). Each county must establish a MOU with the local court outlining the details of those basic services paid for by the State.

Under the former agreement, the Court paid for services above the "basic" services; such "extraordinary" services included security for high publicity or high-risk cases, threats to judicial officers and court personnel, after-hours or off-site court sessions, reactivation of closed lockups, and change of venue cases.

State budget reductions forced the closure of six courthouses and the partial closure of two courthouses. As a result, the Court unilaterally cancelled the Departmental Service Order (DSO) for the above-referenced "extraordinary" services. The Court cited the anticipated savings (a reduction in the need for security at those courthouses) as providing an equivalent level of funding for "extraordinary" services, thereby making the DSO unnecessary.

A Tradition of Service

The level and type of security issues generated when the Court squeezed their existing workload and detained defendants into fewer courthouses to save money increased the demands placed upon the Department's security personnel. Inmates, especially those with special handling needs, defendants remanded to the custody of the Sheriff, employees, and the public passing through weapons screening are all now served by fewer courthouses.

To continue providing mandated court security services within our budget, we can no longer afford the full-time deployment of the Judicial Services Unit (JSU). We are utilizing the personnel assigned to the unit to partially offset costs formerly covered by the DSO; other "extraordinary" security needs will be staffed by redeploying existing courthouse personnel as needed.

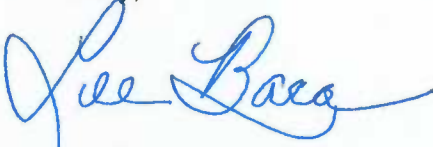
The sergeant-at-arms and the bonus deputy supervising the JSU will continue to provide the same security services to the Board of Supervisors (Board). When Board security requires additional personnel, we will redeploy existing County resources to fulfill that need.

As provided by law, we are engaged in the meet and confer process with the Court. In the meantime, I have reallocated personnel and cut "extraordinary" costs associated with this contract.

We continue to work with all concerned parties in reaching a resolution to this budget dispute. I have worked closely with the Administrative Office of the Court and the Legislature to ensure appropriate levels of funding for court security services. I will continue to work with you to ensure we meet your security needs.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Assistant Sheriff Todd Rogers at (323) 526-5115.

Sincerely,



LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF